

September 15, 2005

Dave Ceppos  
Senior Mediator/Program Manager  
Center for Collaborative Policy  
1303 J Street, Suite 250  
Sacramento, CA 95818

Dear Mr. Ceppos:

SUBJECT: Lower Yolo Bypass Stakeholder Process Feasibility Assessment

After recently reviewing the subject document, I am quite concerned with the tone of reference to the Delta Protection Commission. Of particular issue is the Process Sponsorship paragraph on page 58 in which it is stated:

*"If feasible, the Delta Protection Commission should also be considered in a process sponsorship role. However, constraints of the Commission's resources due to their other existing responsibilities, the recent retirement of their long-standing Executive Director and the subsequent appointment of their new Executive Director, and their potential role as a negotiating stakeholder may limit that sponsorship role."*

It is apparent that this statement is made without the benefit of discussion with myself, as Chair of the Commission, or the current Executive Director. This is disconcerting in that it is my understanding your role on behalf of the Center is to provide guidance for an objective process. In this case, however, the statements made do not reflect accurate knowledge of the Commission with respect to its resources, the expertise and knowledge of the current Executive Director regarding Delta issues, or the strategic transition process currently underway.

As initially stated in the Executive Summary of the document (ES-1), the collaborative stakeholder process should be sponsored by the Yolo Basin Foundation with co-sponsor support from the Delta Protection Commission. This role is consistent with the responsibilities of the Commission to provide a forum for input from Delta stakeholders. Additionally, the Commission is in a position to assure that the diversity of interests and perspectives on Delta issues are represented.

I urge you to give priority to working with Linda Fiack to enhance communication and collaboration on issues pertaining to the Delta, in general, and to insure a successful stakeholder process consistent with the goals of the Center and the Commission.

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Consideration of the recommendation for the Commission to co-sponsor the Lower Yolo Bypass Stakeholder Process with the Yolo Basin Foundation is scheduled for Commission action on September 22, 2005.

Sincerely,

Mike McGowan  
Chair

cc: Bob Ferguson, Vice Chair  
Linda Fiack, Executive Director